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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)PAGE 01 CARACA 02757 01 OF 02 121915Z
ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00
	C-01	DODE-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FRB-03	HA-09
	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04	L-03
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-01	SP-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	DTC-01	/087W			

-----19E30B 121915Z /38

P 121913Z MAR 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9067
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 02757

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, ECON, VE
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] ON THE
POLITICAL CRISIS

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REF: CARACAS 1195

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: [REDACTED] BELIEVES
THAT REMNANTS OF THE DEFEATED FORCES OF THE OLD LEFT ARE
TRYING TO MOUNT A "CIVIL" COUP D'ETAT. [REDACTED]
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FORMER PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERA ERRED, WHEN CALLING FOR
CAP'S RESIGNATION, IN OMITTING TO SPECIFY THAT IT WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE ONLY IN CASE THE PRESIDENT FAILED TO ADOPT
NECESSARY "RECTIFICATIONS." CRITICIZING THE PRESIDENT'S
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR REFUSING TO TAKE CABINET POSITIONS,

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[REDACTED]
FOREIGN MINISTER. [REDACTED] EXPRESSED FEAR THAT
PRIVATIZATION COULD THREATEN AGRARIAN REFORM. HE CALLED
FOR STIFF SENTENCES FOR THE COUP PLOTTERS. END SUMMARY.

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MEETING WITH [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 11 MAR 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 17 AUG 2006 200503206

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3. POLOFF MET WITH [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (REFTEL) ON MARCH 10 TO DISCUSS THE
POLITICAL CRISIS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] COMMENTED AS
FOLLOWS.

A "CIVIL" COUP

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4. [REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT THE REMNANTS OF THE "DEFEATED"
FORCES OF THE LEFT ARE TRYING TO MOUNT A "CIVIL" COUP
D'ETAT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FAILED MILITARY COUP
ATTEMPT ON FEBRUARY 4. THE LEFTIST FORCES INCLUDE FORMER
(1960'S) GUERRILLAS, STUDENTS, RADICALS, SMALL LEFTIST
POLITICAL PARTIES, AND SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS
"RED FLAG" (BANDERA ROJA). A FEW MEMBERS OF THE
ESTABLISHED PARTIES, [REDACTED] MAY IN EFFECT HAVE
BECOME WITTING OR UNWITTING "FELLOW TRAVELERS" OF THESE

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CIVILIAN "GOLPISTAS." (COMMENT: [REDACTED] APPEARS TO
BELIEVE IN SOME FORM OF CONSPIRACY BY THOSE ON THE FRINGES
OF POLITICAL LIFE.)

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OTHERS [REDACTED] B1

5. [REDACTED] THINKS THAT FORMER PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERA
"DID WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE" IN HIS ADDRESS IN CONGRESS
THE DAY OF THE COUP ATTEMPT. [REDACTED] ONLY CRITICISM OF
CALDERA IS THAT, IN SUBSEQUENT CALLS FOR CAP'S
RESIGNATION, THE FORMER PRESIDENT HAS NOT SPECIFIED THAT
IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE ONLY IF CAP FAILED TO MAKE
NECESSARY "RECTIFICATIONS." [REDACTED] HAD HARSH WORDS FOR
ZULIA STATE GOVERNOR OSWALDO ALVAREZ PAZ, FOR WHAT HE
TERMED "PRAISE" OF THE REBELS IN A RECENT NEWSPAPER
COLUMN. ALVAREZ PAZ [REDACTED] SAID, HAD ACTED
"IRRESPONSIBLY" IN A SHAMEFUL ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE HIS
PERSONAL POLITICAL FORTUNES. (WE WERE SURPRISED BY THE
CRITICISM AND WILL CHECK OUT THE STORY.)

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CABINET CHANGES

6. [REDACTED] WANTED THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY
COUNCIL TO TAKE CABINET POSITIONS; INSTEAD, THEY PREFERRED

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"TO TALK, RATHER THAN TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND DO
SOMETHING."

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WHATEVER THE CASE, [REDACTED] THE NEW MINISTERS WOULD
PROBABLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WORK WITH CAP, OWING TO HIS
RELUCTANCE TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP. THIS
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TRAIT HAD ALSO MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR CAP TO RECRUIT
"QUALITY" INDIVIDUALS TO THE CABINET, [REDACTED]

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A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

7. [REDACTED] THE PARTY IS DIVIDED ON THE QUESTION OF A
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. SECRETARY GENERAL EDUARDO FERNANDEZ
AND OTHERS IN THE PARTY MACHINE FAVOR ITS EARLY
CONVOCATION, BUT MANY IN THE PARTY'S CONGRESSIONAL
DELEGATION, INCLUDING HIMSELF, ARE AGAINST IT.

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AGRICULTURE

8. [REDACTED] REGRET THAT CAP'S MARCH 5 SPEECH HAD

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	COME-00	COR-01
	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	EB-01	EXIM-06	E-01	FRB-03
	HA-09	H-01	INRE-00	INR-01	ITC-01	JUSE-00	LAB-04

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L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-08 PA-01
PM-01 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-01 SP-01 SS-01 STR-20
TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 DTC-01 /088W
-----1AA7CE 141147Z /20

P 121913Z MAR 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9068
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 02757

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTING TEXT)

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV. MASS. ECON. VE
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] ON THE
IGNORED AGRICULTURE, WHICH IS IN "TERRIBLE" CONDITION
BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM. [REDACTED]
CAUTIONED THAT THE PRIVATIZATION PROGRAM MIGHT EVENTUALLY
THREATEN THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AGRARIAN REFORM BY DENYING
FARMERS THEIR LAND. (NOTE: SUCH FEAR APPEARS CURIOUS,
SINCE NO ONE INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PRIVATIZATION PROGRAM HAS ADVOCATED, OR IS AT ALL LIKELY
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TO ADVOCATE, TAKING LAND GIVEN TO SMALL FARMERS DURING THE
AGRICULTURAL REFORM PROGRAM.)

THE COUP PLOTTERS

9. [REDACTED] CALLED FOR SEVERE SENTENCES FOR THE COUP
PLOTTERS. HE ADDED THAT IT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BECOME
POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER A PARDON OR A REDUCTION OF THEIR
SENTENCES, BUT THAT IT WOULD BE A CAPITAL POLITICAL ERROR
TO DEAL WITH THEM LENIENTLY AT THIS TIME.
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